



Contacts: Pamela Captain, City Attorney (920) 967-3608

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Menasha Confirms First COVID-19 Death

Date: August 13, 2020

The Menasha Health Department is confirming the first death of a Menasha resident associated with COVID-19. “We are deeply saddened by the loss of our fellow community member. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to their family and friends,” said Mayor Don Merkes.

“Our public health department conveys their deepest condolences to the family. Public health nursing staff recognized the individual as especially kind and cooperative, who had loving family support,” said Nancy McKenney, Public Health Director and Local Health Officer.

This loss is a reminder for all of us that currently there is no vaccine to prevent COVID – 19. **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.** Please take these measures: Wear face coverings in public spaces. Maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others. Wash hands regularly and use hand sanitizer when handwashing isn't available. Sanitize frequently touched surfaces. If you are sick, do not go out in public, and contact your healthcare provider for testing.

These measures will also help protect individuals most at risk of serious illness and death. Individuals at a higher risk are those age 65 or older, and/or with medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes. It will also help keep our healthcare and public health systems from becoming overwhelmed.

COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. CDC recommends covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when you are around others in public (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies). **Remember:** cloth face coverings **should not** be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Please refer to additional guidelines from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the CDC, to protect yourselves and others to help slow the spread of the virus. Currently, in the City of Menasha the burden of confirmed COVID-19 cases is high and the activity level is high. Daily counts and COVID-19 Weekly Data Summaries are located here.

Please call 2-1-1 with any non-emergency inquiries about COVID-19 or for referrals to local services. You can also text COVID19 to 211-211 to receive links to CDC information about the virus.

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